



Tempe Today



a community newsletter

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APS Fantasy of Lights

Enjoy the beauty of the holiday season amid the glittering lights of Mill Avenue's winter wonderland on Saturday, Nov. 24, from 5-9 p.m. The free APS Fantasy of Lights kicks off with a 6 p.m. opening night parade, Tempe's holiday tree lighting, an appearance by Santa Claus and a firework spectacular. For more information, visit www.millavenue.com.

Watch thousands of holiday lights dance across the water at the APS Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade at Tempe Town Lake, on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 4-9 p.m. The free boat parade, kicking off at 7 p.m., will feature 50 decorated watercraft and a dazzling fireworks display. Entertainment includes special exhibits, music, and kids activities at Tempe Beach Park, including 50 tons of snow to add to the seasonal atmosphere. For more information on the boat parade, call 480-355-6065. For an application to enter the boat parade, visit www.downtowntempe.com/Holiday-Boat-Parade.asp.



The East Valley Bus Operations & Maintenance Facility

Tempe wins environmental awards

Tempe has received five Valley Forward Environmental Excellence Awards for facilities, attractions and events that promote environmental education, construction and improvement.

The 27th annual event was held Sept. 29, presenting awards in 22 categories. A total of 46 projects were recognized in the business, government and non-profit sectors; in addition, 18 projects received the highest honor, a Crescordia award.

Tempe Marketplace won a Crescordia for its site development and landscaping. While shoppers enjoy the 125 shops at the new mall, they may not appreciate that for more than 40 years, the site was home to three unregulated landfills. Hazardous materials were removed, thanks to a public-private partnership. The mall will create 4,800 jobs and an estimated \$24.5 million in sales tax revenue during the first decade.

The annual Green Building Expo received a Crescordia for environmental education and communication. Now in its 10th year, this unique educational event is coordinated by the cities of Phoenix, Tempe and Scottsdale. The grassroots initiative helps to expand consumer interest and demand for green products and lifestyles.

The East Valley Bus Operation & Maintenance Facility received an award of merit. The 250-bus maintenance and transit facility, which opened in August, is located in Tempe and is operated by Valley Metro and the cities of Tempe and Scottsdale. The facility incorporates green building principles.

The North Tempe Multi-Generational Center's art piece "Play Like a River," received an award of merit for art in public places. The piece, created by Thomas Strich, takes the form of a metaphorical river that winds its way through the facility. It honors the multicultural character of the community center and neighboring school.

An award of merit was given to the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration for environmental technologies in the public sector. The habitat stretches along five miles of the Salt River from Phoenix to Tempe. Once a dump site, the area is now a lush riparian corridor with five miles of paved and dirt trails dotted with unique design features.



Tempe places first in fitness challenge

Members of the Tempe Fire and Police departments took first place in the inaugural Olympia Weekend First Responders Fitness Challenge on Sept. 29 in Las Vegas. Tempe Fire Engineer/Paramedic Paul Engel and Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Harmon, along with Tempe Police Officer Marc Labelle and Sergeant Mike Pierce, competed in the timed relay-style challenge to win the 2007 Mr. Olympia Fitness Challenge Champions title. The competition consisted of a rock climbing wall, a dummy pull, rowing 500 meters on a rowing machine, and successfully bench pressing 200 pounds, 15 times. Among the teams competing were the Scottsdale Police Department, Mesa Police Department, City of Las Vegas Paramedics, a military base from New Mexico, and others.

Orbit to launch new route

Tempe will launch a new, free neighborhood circulator route called Orbit Mars on Monday, Nov. 26. Orbit Mars will serve neighborhoods between Broadway Road and the U.S. 60, from McClintock Drive to Evergreen Road. Service will be provided every 15 minutes, seven days a week, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Orbit circulator system uses small buses to connect residential areas with local destinations such as downtown Tempe, Arizona State University, shopping areas, other neighborhoods, major bus and future light rail routes, schools and multi-generational centers. Orbit is funded through the 1996 transit tax. For information, call 480-350-2739 or visit www.tempe.gov/tim for maps of the routes.

Volunteers needed for early literacy program

Put your experience, time and patience to use by teaching a child to read. The City of Tempe is a site for Experience Corps, a national program that engages adults 55 and older in efforts to improve early childhood literacy. The Tempe program is looking for volunteers who want to make a difference in children's lives.

Experience Corps currently operates in 21 cities nationwide with 1,800 adult participants. Tempe volunteers will provide one-on-one tutoring to struggling students in kindergarten through third grade. Volunteers do not need special skills; training and support services will be provided. Time commitments can be arranged and those 55 and older can receive a monthly stipend. For more information please call Kim Klaiber at 480-695- 5108 or Peggy Goldberg at 480-858-2465.

City hires new ADA coordinator

The City of Tempe has welcomed new part-time ADA Compliance Specialist Karl Stephens. With more than 20 years of experience working with people with disabilities, Stephens will assist city departments and employees in understanding their responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

He will provide ADA training to employees and serves as a point of contact for citizens with issues about access to programs and services.

Residents can contact Stephens at 480-350-2704 or Karl_Stephens@tempe.gov.

There are currently two positions open on the city's Disability Concerns Commission. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/clerk/Boards&Commissions.htm.



Sculpture raises money for charities

Shoppers can help community members in need when they donate spare change at a unique donation sculpture near the Harkins theatre at Tempe Marketplace.

The 7-foot-tall metal and plastic coin collection bank, designed by Arizona State University design student Jason M. Brown, is the result of collaboration among Tempe Leadership Class 22, Vestar and the Tempe Community Foundation.

"The design fuses modern artistic expression with strategic visual communication," Brown said. "The end result integrates culture, amusement, and concern into the lifestyle center as well as our community."

Funds donated to the bank will go to the Tempe Community Foundation, a fund established in 1992 to support charitable organizations that serve Tempe residents of all ages.



Tempe Fire Department celebrates 10 years of accreditation

The Tempe Fire Department has once again put itself through a grueling, months-long process to receive international accreditation and assure the community that its fire agency is among the best of the best.

In 1997, the department was the first U.S. fire agency to receive accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), a distinction which lasts five years. In August 2007, the department was again notified that it had achieved status as an Internationally Accredited Agency – one of just 120 U.S. fire agencies to achieve the distinction. There are 33,000 fire departments in the United States. An additional 292 fire agencies are pursuing accreditation at this time. Tempe is one of four accredited agencies in Maricopa County and one of 10 in Arizona.

The CFAI process is voluntary, and provides an agency with an improvement model to assess their service delivery and performance internally, followed by an on-site visit by a team of peers from other agencies to validate this self-assessment.

The Tempe Fire Department has found accreditation particularly helpful in planning for the future of the organization and finding areas where service can be improved.

The National Flood Insurance Program

The City of Tempe is a participant in the NFIP, which allows Tempe property owners to purchase flood insurance. Properties do not need to be located in a flood hazard area to be eligible for flood insurance; however, properties that are located in identified flood hazard areas are required by law to be insured. Flood hazard areas are defined as having a 25 percent chance of being flooded over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Large or small floods have a chance of occurring at any time and create a significant hazard to people and property. Tempe flood hazard areas exist primarily in and around the Salt River bed and adjacent to elevated canals or railroads and are shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps. To find out if you are in a special flood hazard area, call 480-350-8288 or visit the Development Services Center or the Engineering Division Office in the Tempe City Hall complex at 31 E. 5th Street. Elevation Certificates are required to be submitted to the City of Tempe Engineering Division for new structures and major additions to existing structures located in identified flood hazard areas; those forms and instructions are available at www.fema.gov. Copies of elevation certificates may be available for some properties in the floodplain. Interested property owners should contact their personal insurance carrier for coverage and pricing.



Tempe City Hall

Tempe has long had a connection with Egyptian-influenced architecture, dating back to 1912 with the Tempe National Bank building at Sixth Street and Mill Avenue. In 1971, the city got its very own pyramid – though some say the blueprints were read upside down.

In 1968, the City Council decided to demolish the deteriorating City Hall, which was built in 1914. At that time, a new community complex was planned at Rural Road and Southern Avenue for a library and other public facilities. As Tempe began expanding to the south, city leaders debated whether city services should remain downtown or go south.

Father-and-son architects Kemper and Michael Goodwin, whose family traced back to 19th century Tempe, proposed an entirely unique municipal building on the site of the demolished City Hall.

After a 4-3 City Council vote in favor of keeping City Hall downtown, the design was awarded to the Goodwins. They promised that their controversial design – an inverted pyramid made of solar-bronzed glass and steel, rising from a sunken garden plaza – would retain its identity in a changing environment. Construction began late in 1969 and the building was dedicated in time for the city's centennial in 1971. Since then it has won many industry awards.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

The November/December schedule for Tempe City Council meetings

November 8

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

December 6

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

December 13

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and the Internet at www.tempe.gov/tempe11.

City Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St. Agendas are posted 24 hours before each meeting outside the Council Chambers and on the second floor of City Hall. Meetings are subject to change. Confirm dates and times with the City Clerk's Office, 480-350-8241 or on the Web site at www.tempe.gov/clerk.

Tempe City Council

Hugh Hallman, Mayor
Hut Hutson, Vice Mayor
P. Ben Arredondo, Councilmember
Barbara J. Carter, Councilmember
Shana Ellis, Councilmember
Mark W. Mitchell, Councilmember
Onnie Shekerjian, Councilmember

Jeff Kulaga, Interim City Manager

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City of Tempe
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News you can use

State of the City

Learn what's happening in Tempe when Mayor Hugh Hallman presents his annual State of the City address on Wednesday, Nov. 28, from 7-9 a.m. in the Kachina Ballroom of The Buttes; A Marriott Resort, 2000 Westcourt Way. The cost is \$45 for Tempe Chamber of Commerce members, \$65 for non-members and \$450 for a table of 10. For more information or to register, call the Chamber of Commerce at 480-967-7891 or visit www.tempechamber.org.

Santa Show

Forget standing in line at the mall, waiting hours to talk to the big guy in red, only to find that your little one is terrified of sitting on his lap. Tempe has the perfect way to tell Santa what you'd like for the holidays: The Santa Show.

For the seventh year, Tempe 11 will air the live call-in show hosted by Dick Steely and starring Santa Claus. It is a popular tradition for Tempe children who watch the show live on the city's cable channel, and for the viewers everywhere who watch it live on the city's Web site, www.tempe.gov/tempe11.

This year, the show will air Monday, Dec. 10, starting at 6:30 p.m. Children can call 480-350-8900 to talk to Santa. The show also features segments highlighting the many holiday events in Tempe.

Trout release into Tempe Town Lake

Go fishing with the family on Tuesday, Nov. 20, from 3-5 p.m. at Tempe Town Lake Marina, as thousands of trout are released into the lake by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Fishing poles and bait will be provided free to use on site. For more information on the trout release or Tempe Town Lake, call 480-350-8625 or visit www.tempe.gov/lake. Town Lake Marina is on the north side of Town Lake, south of Curry Road on College Avenue.

Insight Bowl Game and Block Party

Root for your favorite team at Tempe's biggest football game, the Insight Bowl, on Monday, Dec. 31, kicking off at 3:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$20-80. All ticket prices include free admission to the Block Party.

Celebrate at Arizona's biggest New Year's Eve bash, the Insight Fiesta Bowl Block Party, starting at 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 31. The evening is packed with fun and entertainment for the entire family. More than 100,000 revelers are expected to celebrate in Tempe Beach Park and the Mill Avenue District amid fireworks displays and Arizona's official midnight countdown drop. Highlights include more than 40 local bands and entertainers, a national headlining music act, dueling pianos, freestyle motocross jumpers and more.

For more information on the Insight Bowl and the Insight Fiesta Bowl Block Party, visit www.insightbowl.org or purchase tickets by calling 480-350-0911.

39th Fall Tempe Festival of the Arts

Stroll through the 39th Annual Fall Tempe Festival of the Arts presented by Centerpoint Condominiums from Friday, Nov. 30, through Sunday, Dec. 2. From 10 a.m. to dusk daily, stroll Mill Avenue, enjoy street performances and live music, sample Arizona wines, and eat festival fare and homemade goods. Children can create and explore art at the Kids Innovation Station. For more information, visit www.tempefestivalofthearts.com.

"Flippin for Education" school tax credit event

Tempe school districts invite the community to attend the annual "Flippin for Education" Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 8-11 a.m., at the Tempe Schools Credit Union, 2800 S. Mill Ave. The event is a chance to learn about the state tax credit of up to \$400 that taxpayers are eligible to receive if they donate to the Tempe Elementary School District, Kyrene Elementary School District or Tempe Union High School District. Schools use the donations for programs, activities, arts and athletics. Tickets to the breakfast are \$2 per person. For information, call 480-967-9475.